Boston Athenæum.

How to get books
with an
Explanation
of the
New way of lending books
by
C. A. Cutter, A.B., (Harv.)
Librarian.

B O S T O N A T H E N Æ U M.

HOW TO GET BOOKS.

with an

E X P L A N A T I O N

of the

NEW WAY OF MARKING BOOKS

- by -

C. A. CUTTER, A.B. (HARV.)

Librarian.

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B O S T O N:

PRESS OF ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL,

No. 39 Arch Street.

1 8 8 2.

HOW TO GET BOOKS.

NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS. Page

HOW TO GET BOOKS.

A. When a particular book is wanted.

1. To get it through the attendants.

A. In the Delivery Room. For new books, and for Fiction and English and French Drama, which are in the Delivery Room, ask the attendants at the desk. For other old books find the record of the book wanted in the catalogue at the Delivery Desk. (The method of entry is briefly explained on a leaf which follows the title-page of Part 1.) All books received since Jan. 1, 1872, must be looked for on the card supplement.

If the shelf-mark is given in pencil, copy that with the name of the author, the title of the book (briefly), and--if the work is in more than one volume--the number of the volume or volumes wanted, on one of the slips of paper which may be found at the Delivery Desk, and give it to an attendant, who will sent it up in the order-box and deliver the book to you when it comes down.

If the class-mark is given in red ink copy it exactly,

adding the number of the volume wanted, but nothing more, and give the slip to the attendant.

B. In the main Library, on the second floor, the same course should be pursued. Any of the attendants will get books. Two copies of the printed catalogue with shelf-marks stand on a table near the Arch. All books received since Jan. 1, 1872, must be looked for on the card supplement.

2. To get it one's self.

A. In the Delivery Room the new books on the show tables are roughly classified by subjects. Of the old books English Fiction is on the floor, alphabetically arranged by authors; all other Fiction and English and French Drama are in the 1st gallery; also the Revue des Deux Mondes; in the 2d gallery are the most used English periodicals, arranged alphabetically.

B. In other parts of the Library the pencil marks in the catalogue belong to the old system of marking and indicate the alcove and shelf, e.g., A.16 means alcove A, shelf 16. In this system the books are not marked to their exact place on the shelf, so that after finding shelf A.16 it will be necessary to hunt through the books on it to find the particular one wanted.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. HOW TO GET BOOKS.

The red ink marks in the catalogue belong to the new arrangement, and correspond to the division by subjects. The characters preceding the · or — or + indicate the class. The characters following those marks are a substitute for the author's name and the title, and serve to keep the book in alphabetical order under the subject division.[1] To find it, ascertain from the "Local index"[2] (which is kept on the case of the card-supplement) in what part of the library the class stands. When you have reached that place the colored guide cards projecting from the shelves will show you where your particular subdivision is. If the mark separating the class and author characters was · look for a red guide (which will be among the smaller books); if it was — look for a green guide (among the octavos); if it was + the guide will be yellow and the book a quarto; finally, the mark / corresponds to folios, whose guide is also yellow. As the books in each section are divided into four classes according to their size, and as these signs are all that show in which of the four places a book is, it is as necessary to copy or remember them right as it is to know the class mark. Any mistake will peril

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[1] E.g. Class mark. Size. Author mark. Title.

8 F B 24 A

[2] For description, see p.

the finding of the book. It is of no use to look for a -- book among the volumes. When possible the large books are put immediately under the smaller books of the same subject-division. The shelves will not always allow this, and the folios or quartos of a class may be sometimes found a little before or a little after the other books of the class, but never far off.

When the proper section is reached, the book wanted will be found in that part of the section in which its author's name falls alphabetically, Abbot, for instance, at the beginning, Mason in the middle, Weston near the end. The characters after the size-mark show its exact position; Hume's England, for instance, besides the class mark 8E has the author mark H88, and would come after a history by Hubbard, whose author-mark is H86. (For more details, see pp. 21–28.)

B. TO FIND THE BOOKS ON ANY SUBJECT.

The sole object of the subject-arrangement of books on the shelf is to enable inquirers to find readily what the Library contains on a given topic. To save them the trouble of hunting through a needlessly large number of books the subdivision is made as minute as circumstances will allow. Any

difficulties which the inquirer might have from not knowing what section of the classification contains the matter he is in search of will be in large part removed by an alphabetical subject-index now in preparation, which will show at once the class-mark of any subject, and, in combination with the Local index, will guide the inquirer directly to the spot where books on his topic are placed.

BOSTON ATHENÆUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

EXPLANATION OF THE NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

As some persons have shown a desire to know more about the new way of numbering than was strictly necessary for getting the books, I have prepared a brief explanation of the most prominent points, in order to answer at once many questions; but it is not necessary to remember or even to understand this explanation in order to use the library.

REASONS FOR MAKING THE CHANGE.

The greater part of the shelves having become inconveniently full, some of them bearing double and some triple rows of books, and a new room having been shelved with a capacity for 50,000 volumes, it became necessary to rearrange the whole library. That implies putting new place marks on the catalogues, a work which, as it requires the greatest care to avoid errors (for a book mismarked is practically a book lost), would certainly take a long time and be expensive. And yet there is not the consolation of feeling that what is done is to be of permanent value. Our past experience shows that it would all have to be done over again within a dozen years, when, with a larger library, the task would be still more

expensive. It is therefore plainly expedient to abandon the antiquated system which makes this decennial change of shelf marks necessary, and to adopt a method which will allow the books to be moved hereafter, whenever necessary, without any change of the marks on the catalogues. This can be effected by making the book-numbers indicate not a given alcove and shelf, but a given class and sub-class, and, if necessary, sub-class; so that a book-number once correctly assigned will remain unchanged forever, although the place of the book be changed a hundred times; and, consequently, the cost and loss of time and liability to mistakes inherent in the other plan, will be done away with at once. For instance, it is plain that a History of England should always have the class-number assigned to English histories (8E), no matter in what part of the building that class may be placed. And any number of new works may come into that class, yet its subject-number or letter will be unaltered.

The old method may be compared to the line in the directory which states that a man lives at 129 Grace Street; the method proposed may be compared to the army register, which says that he is captain of Company C, 5th Regiment, N.V.M. Let the regiment be marked all over the country, yet the soldier is easily found by his position in it. If the

citizen moves to a new street, a new directory is needed, but the army register does not have to be altered whenever the regiment is quartered in a different town. Similarly, books may be found by their position in a certain class, though the class itself be transferred from one alcove to another, or from one building to another.

A second improvement was much needed. In the old system books are marked merely to alcove and shelf, an insufficient practice, to be found in hardly any other library of importance in the country. When one had reached the right shelf, one was far from having found one's book. It was still necessary to hunt it up, by its title, among the often badly lettered volumes, on the often ill-lighted shelf. In the new system, every book has a definite place in its section, and the mark which determines that place is legibly stamped on the back. Thus, as in other American libraries, every volume has its own mark, shared with no other volume, its proper name, by which it is absolutely identified, and by which it can be quickly and safely described in any of the operations of library management.

CLASSES.

The books are to be arranged in classes; each class being divided, and each division subdivided, as much as may be found

convenient. The first nine classes are designated by the figures 1 to 9, and the remaining classes by the letters A to Z (omitting O), stamped in gold-leaf upon the lower part of the backs of the books. The divisions of each class are noted in a similar way by adding to the class mark a figure, or, when the nine figures are exhausted, a letter. Thus the divisions of the class 9 are 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 9A, 9B, 9C, and so on to 9X, 9Y, 9Z; after which comes the next class, A, with its divisions A1, A2, etc. So V (Literature), has various divisions, as VE (the literature of England), VF (the literature of France), VG (the literature of Germany), VH (the literature of Holland), and so on. If the subdivision is carried farther in the division English literature, the general works (VE) come first, and are followed by various subdivisions indicated by adding a third letter, as VEA, English wit and humor, VED, English drama, VEF, English fiction, VEP, English poetry. French or any other literature would be similarly divided.

The classes at present proposed are the following:-

O General works. (General Registers, Encyclopedias, Periodicals, Societies, and Polygraphy.)

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Philosophical sciences.

1. Philosophy (Mental and Moral).

2. Religion (Natural); Mythology; Religions.

3. Theology (Christian).

Historical sciences.

4. Ecclesiastical history.

5. Biography; General works, and Eastern Hemisphere.

6. " Western Hemisphere.

7. History (General); Chronology, Antiquities, etc.

8. " Eastern Hemisphere.

9. " Western Hemisphere.

A Geography: General works, and Eastern Hemisphere.

B " Western Hemisphere.

Social sciences.

C Statistics; Political economy; Commerce.

D Sociology (General); Poor; Public morality; Education.

E Government and Politics, Law (General).

F Law and Legislation, Eastern Hemisphere.

G " " Western Hemisphere.

Natural sciences.

(Matter.)

H Natural sciences in general; Mathematics; Mechanics;

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Physics (Electricity, Heat, Light, Sound, Pneumatics, Hydraulics); Chemistry; Astronomy.

I Physical geography; Geology, including Mineralogy.

(Life.)

I Biology; Microscopy.

J Paleontology (general); Natural history (i.e., Botany and Zoology together); Botany.

J,K,L Zoology.

L Comparative anatomy and physiology; Anthropology and Ethnology.

Arts.

(Useful arts.)

M Medicine.

N Arts in general; Extractive arts (Mining, Agriculture; Animaliculture); Chemical arts and Domestic arts.

P Constructive arts (Building and Engineering), and Metric arts.

Q Fabricative arts (Manufactures, Handicrafts); Commercial arts.

R Combative (Military and Naval) and Preservative arts; Ship-building and Navigation; Aeronautics.

S Recreative arts (Sports and Games).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

(Fine arts.)

T Music; Theatre.

U Art.

Literature and Language.

V Literature: General works, and Eastern Hemisphere.

W " Western Hemisphere.

X Book-arts: Authorship, Writing, Printing, Book trade, Libraries, Bibliography, and Reading (its selection).

Y Language: General works, and Eastern Hemisphere.

" Western Hemisphere.

It will be noticed that in six cases a pair of numbers or of letters are assigned to a single class. The reason is that these are classes which require geographical subdivision, and the first number or letter is to be used for the Eastern Hemisphere, the second for the Western Hemisphere and Oceania. Thus, 8 means the History of the Eastern Continent, 8E the history of a division of it,--England; 6 is the History of America, and 65 the history of one division of it,--the United States. The letters assigned to the different countries are given in the following lists:-

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

First list[1], to be used with 5, 8, A, F, V, Y.

EASTERN HEMISPHERE.

1 ASIA.

1R Siberia.

2 Japan.

3 China.

4 Indo-China.

5 India.

6 Persia.

7 Arabia.

8 Palestine.

8T Dead Sea.

8U Levant.

8V Phoenicia.

8W Syria.

8X Armenia.

8Y Black Sea.

8Z Transcaucasia.

Second list, to be used with 6, 9, B, G, W, Z.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE, etc.

1 ARCTIC REGIONS.

2 AMERICA.

3 North America.

4 British America and Canada.

5 United States.

6-C Separate states (arrangement not fully settled).

[1]There are objections to the order in this list, but I have tried many other arrangements and found objections to each. The one here adopted seems to me on the whole a little better

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

9 Asia Minor.

A EUROPE.

AX Northern Europe.

(For works including Finnish and Lappish, Slavic, Scandinavian, and Teutonic nations.)

AZ Slavic races.

B Russia.

(Including general works on the Russian Empire in Europe and Asia.)

C Scandinavia.

(Including works relating to Scandinavian and Teutonic nations together.)

CS Sweden.

CV Denmark.

CW Norway.

CY Iceland.

CX Finmark.

CZ Faroe Islands.

D British Empire (in Geography). D Mexico.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

D Keltic races (in History, Language, and Literature).

DR Scottish Isles.

DS Scotland.

DU Ireland.

DT Highlands.

DVZ Isle of Man.

DW Wales.

E England (in Geography), British Empire (in History and Biography).

F France.

G Germany.

H Netherlands.

HS 7 Northern Provinces, and Kingdom of Holland.

HU 10 ~~xxxxxx~~ Southern Provinces, and Kingdom of Belgium.

HV Flanders.

HX Spain.

HY Basque provinces.

HZ portugal.

E Spanish America.

F Bermudas, and West Indies.

G South America.

H Guiana.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

I	Italy.	I	Venezuela.
J	Roman Empire.	J	Colombia.
K	Switzerland.	K	Ecuador.
L	Austria.	L	Brazil.
M	South Eastern Europe.	M	Paraguay.
N	Turkey in Europe, Turkish Empire.	N	Uruguay.
O	Byzantine or Greek Empire.	O	Bolivia.
P	Ancient Greece.	P	Argentine Republic.
Q	Modern Greece.	Q	Patagonia.
R	Southern Europe.	R	Chili.
RS	Mediterranean Sea.		
S	AFRICA.	S	Peru.
T	Egypt.	T	OCEANIA, Polyneaia, pacific Ocean.
U	Barbary States.	U	Sandwich Islands.
UR	Tripoli.		
UU	Tunis.		
UW	Algeria.		
UX	Morocco.		
UY	Madeira		
UZ	Canary Isles.		
V	Sahara.	V	New Guinea.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

W	Equatorial and South Central Africa.	W	Australia.
X	South Africa.	X	Tasmania.
Y	Madagascar.	Y	New Zealand.
		Z	ANTARCTIC REGIONS.

These lists are used to divide geographically the six main classes specified above: Biography (5, 6), History (8, 9), Geography and Travels (A, B), Law (F, G), Literature (V, W), Language (Y, Z).

The character appropriated to any country in the Eastern Hemisphere is used in combination with the <u>first</u> character of the several pairs, namely, with 5, 8, A, F, V, and Y, so that

5 is English biography;	5F is French biography;
8E is English history;	8F is French history;
AE is English geography;	AF is French geography;
FE is English law;	FF is French law;
VE is English literature;	VF is French literature;
YE is English language;	YF is French language;

and so on for other countries, as 5G, 5H, 5I, 5J, etc.

Similarly in the Western Hemisphere using the <u>second</u> character of the pair, we have

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

9E History of Spanish America,

BG Travels in South America,

G4 Canadian law,

ZT Languages of Polynesia,

or, to compare the two lists:-

55	Biography of India.	C5	Biography of the U. S.
8L	History of Austria.	9L	History of Brazil.
AW	Travels in Central Africa	BW	Travels in Australia.
YD	Celtic languages.	ZD	Languages of Mexico.

It will be seen that the letter E alone does not mean England, but the combination of E with the first of a pair of characters (as 5, of 5 and 6; 8, of 8 and 9; A, of A and B, and so on) means English Biography or English history, or something else English, as the case may be. Thus, the combination of 5 with the first of a pair is India, with the second of the pair is United States; the union of E with the first of a pair is England, with the second is Spanish America. This arrangement was necessary because thirty-five characters were not enough to mark important countries of the world. Seventy characters, however, which this pairing process gives, do fairly well, although a few countries of

note have to be designated by two characters, as Scotland by DS (as Scotch biography, 5DS; Scottish history, 8DS; travels in Scotland, ADS; Scotch poetry, VDSP); Sweden, CS; Denmark, CV; Ireland, DU; Wales, DW.

These lists of countries can be used not only with the six pairs enumerated above, but wherever geographical division is desired, as, for example, with the pairs

X4, X5 Catalogues of manuscripts.

XE, XF publishers and Booksellers' catalogues.

XH, XI History and catalogues of private libraries.

XK, XL History of public libraries.

XM, XN Catalogues of public libraries.

(E.G., XME Catal. of Eng. libraries, XN5 Catalogues of libraries in the United States).

XT, XU Bibliography (e.g., XTE Bibliography of England, XU5 Bibliography of the U. S.).

XV, XW Literary history (e.g., XVE Lit. hist. of England, XW5 Lit. hist. of the U. S.).

That this correspondence of marks running through so many classes will afford great assistance to the memory is obvious. It is believed that the device has never before been applied

in the notation of a classified library. No one, perhaps, can remember it all; it cannot be learned, even in part, very quickly; but those who use the library much will find that they become familiar in time unconsciously with all that they have much occasion to use.

SIZES.

At it would waste much room to fill up shelves tall enough for folios with duodecimos or even with octavos, the books in each class are divided into four sizes, indicated by the sign placed immediately after the class mark. Thus—

H3 · is a 12°, or less than 20 cm. (7.9 in.) high.

H3 - is an 8°, or between 20 and 25 cm. (7.9 and 9.8 in.) high.

H3 + is a 4°, or between 25 and 30 cm. (9.8 and 11.8 in.) high.

H3 / is a folio, or over 30 cm. (11.8 in.) high.

So far as is possible the larger books are kept underneath the smaller books belonging to the same class; so that there are four parallel sets of books running through the alcoves, one under another; thus, taking for example, the three successive classes A, B, and C:-

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

	Class A.	Class B.	Class C.
Upper shelves,	Duodecimo.	Duodecimo.	Duodecimo.
Middle shelves,	Octavo.	Octavo.	Octavo.
Low shelves.	Quarto.	Quarto.	Quarto.
Lowest shelves,	Folio.	Folio.	Folio.

The shelf guides of the duodecimos are red, those of the octavos green, those of the quartos and folios yellow.

AUTHORS.

When the books are sufficiently divided according to their subjects, and then according to their sizes, they are placed in the alphabetical order of their authors' names,—an arrangement which makes it very easy to find any work as soon as one knows to what subdivision it belongs.[1] To keep them in this order they receive a numbering (called the author-mark) immediately after the size-mark, e.g., "Guizot's Histoire de France" is lettered

class mark.	size mark.	Author mark.
8C	—	G94

This author-mark is composed of the initial[2] of the

[1] The following explanation is necessarily difficult of comprehension and need not be read by any person who merely desires to find the books.

[2] If the name begins with a vowel or with S, two letters are used (as Ac, Em, It, Og, Sl, Un), because this is found in these cases to require fewer characters than the use of the initial alone.

author's family name followed by figures assigned according to a table which is so constructed that the names in which G is followed by one of the first letters in the alphabet have the first numbers and those in which it is followed by later letters have later numbers, e.g.

Gardiner,	G16	Gerry,	G36
Gilman,	G42	Glover,	G51
Gore,	G66	Graham,	G76
Grote,	G89	Guizot,	G94

If the books are arranged in the order of these numbers of course they will be in alphabetical order.

The table is made in this way: All the names in G, from Gaa to Gyz, are divided into nine parts. Any one falling within the first part (which runs from G to Garo) is numbered G1, any one falling within the second part (Gas to Geo) is numbered G2, and so on. As there may often be several names falling within each part, provision is made to distinguish them by adding another figure. Just as the whole of the names beginning with G are divided into nine parts, so the names in the first part (G to Garo) are again subdivided into nine parts, the first (G to Gae) numbered 1, the second (Gaf to Gak) numbered 2, and so on.

This fives us the following table:--

Names beginning with any combination between G and Gac, inclusive, are numbered	G11
Names beginning with any combination between Gaf and Gak, inclusive, are numbered	G12
Names beginning with Gal are numbered	G13
" " " Gam " "	G14
Names beginning with any combination between Gan and Gaq, inclusive, are numbered	G15

And so on.

Then in the second part of G (Gas to Geo):--

Names beginning with Gas are numbered	G21
" " " Gat " "	G22
" " " Gau " "	G23

And so on.

If there are several names beginning with Gas, then G21 is likewise divided into nine parts, G211, G212, G213, G214, etc. And if several names still fall within the limits covered by G211, that would be farther divided into G2111, G2112, G2113, etc. so that however many names there may be, it will always be possible to give each a number that will

distinguish it from every name, and will keep it in its place in the alphabet.

This process leads, however, to a result that may be at first sight confusing. When there are on the shelf a series of authors numbered G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, if several new ones arrive whose names comes between G1 and G2, and between G3 and G4, we may give them the numbers G18, G19, G35, G36, G37. If some more come in between G36 and G37, we number them G361, G362, etc. We shall have then a series of numbers running thus: G1, G18, G19, G2, G3, G35, G36, G361, G362, G37, G4. G5. That is to say, the numbers are arranged not in the order of integers (which would be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 35, 36, 37, 361, 362), but in the order of decimal fractions.

.1	.36
.18	.361
.19	.37
.2	.4
.3	.5
.35	.6

A moment's attention will show that this is precisely the order in which the classes and their divisions are arranged, e.g.:--

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

CLASS	1	1 class.
division	11	2 "
subdivision	111	3 "
CLASS	2	11 division
division	21	21 "
subdivision	213	22 "
division	22	111 subdivision
subdivision	221	213 "
CLASS	3	221 "

and so on.

The order of the author-marks will appear equally simple if it is considered that G represents a class of names (all those that begin with G), of which G1 is a division (all those included between G and Garo), and G11 is a subdivision of G1, and so on.

TITLES.

The subject and author-marks might be enough to find the books by; but it is also necessary that each book should have a number differing from that of every other book, by which it can be asked for, charged, and recorded in the various processes of library work. It also facilitates finding the works of voluminous authors like Scott, Dumas, George Sand,

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Anthony Trollope, to arrange their works alphabetically. For this reason, if there are two books by the same author in a subdivision, the second is distinguished by adding the initial of the title, e.g.:--

Freer's Married Life of Anne of Austria,	8Fd-F87
Freer's Regency of Anne of Austria,	8FR-F87R

If there are many books of the same author the collected works are placed first, the separate works afterwards, alphabetically, each followed by its translations, when there are any. (Duplicate copies or other editions are distinguished by numbers.)

Milton's	Poems,	VEP.M64
"	Comus,	VEP.M64C
"	Lycidas,	VEP.M64L
"	Paradise Lost,	VEP.M64P
"	Paradise regained,	VEP.M64R

If two titles begin with the same initial the second is marked by the first two letters of its name, or by the next letter of the alphabet.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

TO SUM UP.

Books are divided in this library according to --

(1) Their subject or literary form,

(2) Their size,

(3) their author,

(4) their title;

the latter distinction being used only when there are two or more works by the same author in the same size-division of the same subject-division.

EDITIONS AND DUPLICATE COPIES.

To distinguish different editions or different copies of the same work an edition-mark is used, which is made by adding a figure to the title-mark, as

Dante's Inferno,		VIP'D21
"	Another edition,	VIP'D212

When there is no title-mark the figure is separated from the last figure of the author-mark by repeating the size-mark, e.g.:--

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Dante's Divina commedia,	VIP'D2
" Another edition, 1700	VIP'D2'4
" Another edition, 1770	VIP'D2'47
" Another edition, 1800	VIP'D2'5

Translations are marked by the initial of the language into which the version is made.

Divina commedia in English,	VIP'D2'E
" " in French,	VIP'D2'F
" another version in French,	VIP'D2'F2
Inferno,	VIP'D2I
" a French version,	VIP'D2IF

This arrangement is chiefly needed for a few authors whose works are present in a considerable number of editions, as Dante, Cervantes, Molière, Camoens, Milton. For Shakespeare a special arrangement has been made.

LOCAL INDEX.

If the whole library were contained in one large room, it would be natural and easy to place the classes in the order of their numbers, class 1 at the beginning, then class 2, and so on to class Z; but in a building like this, composed of

rooms of different sizes and forms irregularly placed, strict numerical order cannot conveniently be observed; and it would, at any rate, be desirable to disturb that order for the sake of getting some much used classes, or parts of classes, near the Delivery Desk, and so economizing the time both of the attendants and of the public. Moreover, during the rearrangement, the books that have been re-marked have to be put wherever empty shelves can be found for them. The place of the classes can be ascertained by consulting a Local index, the first column of which contains the class-marks and the second the numbers of the different rooms, designated according to the following table:—

		Former Alcoves.
0.	The Basement.	
14.	Periodical Reading Room.	118
	24. Same: Gallery.	100-112
15.	Delivery Room.	51-53 54-60
	25. Same: 1st Gallery. 25². 2d Gallery.	61-68
16.	Store Room.	
17, 18.	Stairs and Hall.	
19.	American Academy.	
	29. Same: 1st Gallery. 29². 2d Gallery.	

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

34.	Library Reading Room.	A-M
	44. Same: Gallery.	N-Z
35.	Upper Delivery Room.	1-5
	45. Same: Gallery.	6-10
36.	Trustees' Room.	61
	46. Same: 1st Gallery. 46². 2d Gallery.	62-66
37.	Hall.	
38.	Newspaper Room.	34-39
	48. Same: 1st Gallery. 48². 2d Gallery.	40-49
39.	Arts and Science Room.	11-17
	49. Same: 1st Gallery. 49². 2d Gallery.	18-33

54.	Upper Library.	A*-M*
	64. Same: Gallery.	N*-Z*
55.	Professional Room.	71-83
	65. Same: Gallery.	84-90
56.	Closet.	
57.	Hall.	
58.	Over Newspaper Room.	
59.	North-east Upper Room.	

In this table the first figures, when odd, 1, 3, 5, denote the floor; the first figures, when even, 2, 4, 6, denote the galleries; the second figure designates the particu-

lar room on each floor, the numbering beginning at the southwest corner and following the sun.

N.B. In consulting the Local index for the place of a class, pay no regard to the letter after the size-mark, that is, to the first letter of the author-mark. (E.g., if the mark given in the catalogue is VG'H15, look in the Local index for VG, not for VGH.) And, in general, it will be found that the marks are easier to read and to remember if one thinks of them as signifying four distinct things,—the class, the size, the author, and the title.

SHELF GUIDES.

To facilitate finding the various classes, signs are put at the beginning and at the end of each subdivision. They are pieces of pasteboard 14 cm. (5 1/2 in.) high, and projecting about 10 cm. (or 4 in.) from the shelf, bearing the words, "Here ends section" (or, "Here begins section," followed by the name of the section, as "Here begins section EFD, Reign of Louis XIV."). The two parallel series of classes (duodecimo and octavo) are distinguished by the color of the guides, which is red for the upper or smaller series, and green for the lower or octavo series. The quartos and the

folios will both have yellow signs, as there can be no difficulty of distinguishing them from one another at a glance.

When a large subdivision (as English fiction, English biography) spreads its alphabet over a number of shelves, similar signs (on gray pasteboard) show where the letters of the alphabet begin and end.

THE PARALLEL LIBRARIES.

It is part of the plan ultimately to make several parallel libraries, consisting of (1) the most used books, (2) those more seldom called for, or entirely obsolete, (3) those which are too costly or otherwise not proper to be exposed on the shelves, (4) the unbound pamphlets. Each will be marked with the same class-marks; but they will be distinguished by prefixing to the mark of the second a colon, : , of the third the sign ⸗ or Ð, of the fourth the sign ¶. For example:-

8E G82 Green's History of England.

:8E H39 Henry's " " "

¶6E F94 Brief memoir of Eliz. Fry (a pamphlet).

The mark : added to a shelf-guide in the first library will indicate that its class is represented in the second

library, and that he who wants all that there is on the subject must look in both places.

The first library will be kept in the Delivery Room and the present Library Reading Room; the second library in the less accessible upper story, and the pamphlets ~~xxxxx~~ in a room that can be locked.

EXPLANATION OF THE PART OF THE WORK DONE, OR NOW DOING.

Biography (5 and 6).

Biography is divided by countries.[1] In the general class, and under each country, may be the sections:-

.5	Dictionaries.
.7	Periodicals.
.91-95	Collective biography of periods.
.99	Family and class biographies.
.9	Other collective biographies.

Then comes individual biography arranged by the names of the subjects. When there are two lives in one volume the first mentioned in the title determines the place. Works containing three or more lives are put with the collections.

Lives of kings, regents and queens regnant, are put, not

[1] At present. It may turn out to be more convenient to arrange all individual biography on the shelves in one alphabetical series, confining the arrangement by countries to the collective biography.

in Biography, but in History (8 and 9).

Lives of Fathers of the Church and Popes are put with Church history (class 4), where is also collective ecclesiastical biography; but individual ecclesiastical biography is in classes 5 and 6.

Lives of actors, artists, and musicians, are put with the classes Theatre and Music (T) and Art (U).

History (8 and 9).

History is divided by countries. In the general class and under each country there may be the sections:-

.5 Dictionaries.

.7 Periodicals.

.8 Publications of historical societies.

.9 Collections of three or more authors.

Then follow general histories arranged alphabetically by authors; then the histories of particular periods, and, lastly, the local history, which is always subdivision Z, e.g. (8E being English history):-

8EZD History of Durham.

8EZY History of Yorkshire.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Lives of kings, regents, and queens regnant, are put in the sections containing the history of their respective reigns.

History of Russia (8F).

8B	General works.
8B1	Early history; ant. Grand Dukes ([illegible]-1533).
8B2	Czars (1533-1613).
8B3	House of Romanof.
8B4	Peter the Great (1689, Emperor 1721-25).
8B5	Katherine I. (1725-27).
8B5P	Peter II. (1727-30).
8B6	Anne (1730-40).
8B6I	Ivan VI. (1740-41).
8B7	Elizabeth (1741-62).
8B7P	Peter III. (1762).
8B8	Katherine II. (1762-96).
8B9	Paul (1796-1801).
8BA	Alexander I. (1801-25).
8BB	Nicholas (1825-55).
8BC	Alexander II. (1855-81).
8BD	Alexander III. (1881-).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

History of England (8E).

8E	General histories.
8E·5	Dictionaries.
8E·6	Tables, Historical maps, Chronology.
8E·7	Periodicals.
8E·8	Societies.
8E·9	Collections.
8E1	Early and mediaeval history.
8E11	British period.
8E12	Roman period.
8E13	Saxons and Danes.
8E14	Egbert ([illegible]00-3[illegible]).
8E15	Ethelwulf ([illegible]-[illegible]).
8E16	Ethelbald ([illegible]-[illegible]).
8E17	Ethelbert ([illegible]-[illegible]).
8E18	Ethelred I. ([illegible]-71).
8E1A	Alfred (871-901).
8E1B-8E1N	Edward I.-III. ([illegible]01-10[illegible]).
8E1P	Harold II. (10[illegible]).
8E1Q	Norman conquest and following period (10[illegible]-1399).
8E1R	William I. (10[illegible]-8[illegible]).
8E1S	William II. (1087-1100).
8E1T	Henry I. (1100-3[illegible]).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

8E1U	Stephen (1134-54);
8E2	Plantagenets (1154-1399).
8E21	Henry II. (1154-89).
8E22	Richard I. (1189-99).
8E23	John (1199-1216).
8E24	Henry III. (1216-72).
8E25	Edward I. (1272-1307).
8E26	Edward II. (1307-27).
8E27	Edward III. (1327-77).
8E28	Richard II. (1377-99).
8E29	Houses of Lancaster and York (1399-1485).
8E2A	House of Lancaster (1399-1461).
8E2B	Henry IV. (1399-1413).
8E2C	Henry V. (1413-22).
8E2D	Henry VI. (1422-61).
8E2E	House of York (1461-85).
8E2F	Edward IV. (1461-83).
8E2G	Edward V. (1483).
8E2H	Richard III. (1483-85).
8E3	House of Tudor (1485-1603).
8E37	Henry VII. (1485-1509).
8E38	Henry VIII. (1509-47).
8E4	Edward VI. (1547-53).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

8E5 Mary I. (1553-58).

8E6 Elizabeth (1558-1603).

8E7 Stuarts (1603-1714).

8E8 James I. (1603-25).

8E9 Charles I. (1625-49).

8EA Commonwealth and Protectorate (1649-1660).

8EB Charles II. (1660-85).

8EC James II. (1685-88).

8ED William III. and Mary (1689-1702).

8EE Anne (1702-14).

8EF House of Hanover (1714-).

8EG1 George I. (1714-27).

8EG2 George II. (1727-60).

8EG3 George III. (1760-1820).

8EG4 George IV. (1820-30).

8EG5 William IV. (1830-37).

8EH Victoria (1837-).

8EY Social History.

8EZ Local history.

History of France (8F).

8F General histories.

8F.C Table.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

8F·7 Periodicals.

8F·8 Societies.

8F·9 Collections.

8F3 Gaul in general and before the Romans.

8F4 Gaul under the Romans.

8F5 Franks.

8F6 1st race, Merovingians, (42[illegible]-752).

8F61 Meroveus (448-[illegible]).

8F64 Childeric (4[illegible]-[illegible]1).

8F67 Clovis (481-511).

8F6A-8F6Z Successors of Clovis, Kings of the Franks, of Austrasia, Neustria, and Burgundy.

8F7 2d race, Carlovingians (7[illegible]2-83[illegible]).

8F71 Pepin (75[illegible]-[illegible]).

8F75 Charlemagne (7[illegible]-814).

8F7A Louis le debonnaire (814-40).

8F7F Charles le chauve.

8F7K Successors of C:, Louis II., etc. (877-[illegible]).

8F7P Charles le gros (884-[illegible]).

8F7U Raoul (923-36).

8F8 3d race (987-1[illegible]).

8F81 Hugh Capet (987-[illegible]).

8F84 Robert II. ([illegible]-1031).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

8F87 Henri I. (1031-60).

8F8A Philippe I. (1060-1108).

8F8D Louis IV. le gros (1108-37).

8F8G Louis VII. le jeune (1137-80).

8F8J Philippe II. Auguste (1180-1223).

8F8M Louis VIII. Coeur de lion (1223-26).

8F8P Louis IX. (1226-70).

8F8S Philippe III. le hardi (1270-85).

8F8U Philippe IV. le bel (1285-1314).

8F8X Successors of Philippe IV. (1314-[illegible]).

8F8Z 3d race and Valois ([illegible]-1328).

8F9 Valois.

8F91 Philippe VI. (1328-50).

8F93 Jean II. (1350-64).

8F95 Charles V. (1364-80).

8F97 Charles VI. (1380-1422).

8F9A Charles VII. (1422-61).

8F9C Louis XI. (1461-83).

8F9F Charles VIII. (1483-98).

8F9H Louis XII. (1498-1515).

8F9K Francois I. (1515-47).

8F9N Henri II. (1547-59).

8F9R Francois II. (1559-60).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION.

SF9S The wars of religion (1562-98).

SF9U Charles IX. (1560-74).

SF9X Henri III. (1574-89).

SF9Y The League (1576-93).

SF9Z Valois and Bourbons (1328-1792).

SFA Bourbons.

SFB Henri IV. (1589-1610).

SFC Louis XIII. (1610-43).

SFD Louis XIV. (1643-1715).

SFE Louis XV. (1715-74).

SFF Louis XVI. (1774-1792).

SFFP Ancien Regime (1643-92).

SFFR Imprisonment of the King (1789-92).

SFG Revolution and 1st Republic (1789-1804).

SFG1 Convention (Sept. 17, 1792-Nov. 1, 1795).

SFG5A Directory (Nov. 1, 1795-Nov. 9, 1799).

SFGK Consulate (Dec. 24, 1799-1804).

SFH Consulate and Empire and 1st Empire and Hundred Days (1804-15).

SFHF Works of Napoleon I.

SFHR Lives of Napoleon I.

SFHV 1st Captivity and Hundred Days.

SFHW Captivity at St. Helena.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

8FHX History of the 19th Century.

8FI Restauration.

Louis XVIII. (1815-24).

Charles X. (1824).

8FJ Government of July, Louis Philippe (1830).

8FK 2d Republic (1848).

8FKD The Coup d'Etat, Dec. 1851, and the "Presidency for ten years."

8FL 2d Empire (Dec. 2, 1852-70).

8FLR Life of Napoleon III.

8FM 3d Republic (Sept. 4, 1870-).

8FM1 1870-72 in general, both under the Empire and after the Prussian war.

8FM2 Government of National Defence (Sept. 4, etc.) and Siege of Paris by the Prussians (Aug. 7, 1870-Mar. 1, 1871).

8FM3 Commune and Siege of Paris by Thiers (March 18-May 24).

8FM4 Presidency of Thiers (Feb. 17, 1871).

8FM5 Presidency of McMahon (Nov. 20, 1873-79).

8FM6 Presidency of Grevy (Jan. 30, 1879-).

8FY Social history.

8FZ Local history.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

History of Spain (8HX).

8HX0 Early history.

8HX1 Romans in Spain (B.C. 217-A.D. 414).

8HX2 Visigoths in Spain (414-711).

8HX3 Moors (Cordova, Granada) (711-1492).

8HX4 Aragon, Castile, Leon, Navarre.

8HX5 Spain: Ferdinand (1512-16).

(Including lives of Ferdinand and Isabella of Aragon and Castile.)

8HX6 Charles I. (Charles V. of Spain, Germany)(1516-56).

8HX7 Philip II. (1556-98).

8HX8 Philip III. (1598-1621).

8HX9 Philip IV. (1621-1665).

8HXA Charles II. (1665-1700).

Bourbons.

8HXB Philip V. (1700-46).

Succession war, 1701.

8HXC Ferdinand VI. (1746-59).

8HXD Charles III. (1759-88).

8HXE Charles IV. (1788-1808).

8HXF Joseph Napoleon (1808-14).

8HXG Ferdinand VII. (1814-33).

8HXH Isabella II. (1833-68, 70).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

8HXI Amadeus (1870-73).

8HXJ Republic (1873-74).

8HXK Alfonso (1875-).

8HXY Social history.

8HXZ Local history, alphabetically arranged.

8HXY Basque Provinces.

History of Portugal (8H[illegible]).

8HZ1 Early history, Romans.

8HZ2 Goths.

8HZ3 Moors.

8HZ4 Counts (1095-1139).

8HZ5 Alfonso I.-III. (1139-1279).

8HZ6 Dionysius - Ferdinand (1279-1383).

8HZ7 John I.- Alfonso V. (1383-1481).

8HZ8 John II.-Henry (1481-1580).

8HZ9 Spanish rule (1580-1640).

8HZA John IV., V. (1640-1750).

8HZB Joseph (1750-[illegible]).

8HZC Maria (1777-1816).

8HZD John VI.-Pedro IV. (1816-[illegible]).

8HZE Maria II. and Miguel (1[illegible]-[illegible]).

8HZF Pedro V. (1853-[illegible]).

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

SUZG Luis I. (1861-).

SUZY Social history.

SUZZ Local history.

Geography, including travels (A and G).

Geography is divided by countries. In this general class, and under each country, there may be five sections:-

.5 Dictionaries.

.6 Guide books.

.7 Periodicals.

.8 Publications of geographical societies.

.9 Collections of three or more authors.

Then follow the general books arranged alphabetically by authors' names; next, local works, the name of the place determining the subsection, as

AE Travels in England.

AE18 Description of London.

AE77 Tour in Norfolk.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. KEY SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Literature (V and W).

Literature is divided by countries:[1]— Under each country there may be the groups:—

.8 Societies.

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[1]To the marks for literature which can be made by the use of the lists on pp. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 the following may be added:-

VDR Literature of Scotland.

VDS Literature in Lowland Scotch.

VDT. Gaelic literature.

VDU Literature in the Irish language.

VDUZ Manx literature.

VDW Welsh "

VDWZ Cornish "

VDX Breton "

VDY Anglo-Saxon "

VDZ Anglo-Norman.

VW Dutch "

VWZ Flemish "

VWY Walloon "

VX Romance "

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

.9 Collections of three or more authors.[1]

Then ~~fllx~~ follow the works of individual writers (arranged alphabetically by authors' names), including the collected works of single authors, and all the writings that do not fall under some one of the following special heads[2]:-

2 Periodicals.

3 Essays, Lectures, and the like.

4 Ana, "Thoughts," etc.

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[1]How .9 is divided may be shown best by taking England as an example:-

.91 Early literature to Elizabeth.

.92 Elizabethan.

.93 Stuarts.

.94 Anne and the Georges.

.95 Victoria.

.96 The future.

.97

.98

.99 Local.

..9 General collections.

[2]These special heads, of course, come in due order after general works, e.g., VE, VE2, VE3, and so on.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

5 Letters (literary and miscellaneous[1]).

6 Orations.

7 Proverbs, Maxims, etc.

A Wit and humor.

B Prose satire.

C Parodies.

D Drama.

E Dialogues.

F Fiction.

G English translations of foreign fiction.

H Fables.

I Imaginary voyages, visions, allegories.

K Fairy tales.

L Legends, Sagas, Medieval prose romances.

M Popular literature in general.

N Ballads, songs.

O Poetical romances of the Middle Ages.

P Poetry.

Q Dialects.

Thus, VE is English literature; VED English drama; VEN English ballads; VEP English Poetry; VEQ works in dialects of

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[1]Letters on any subject (as "Letters on chemistry") go with the subject.

the English language; VF French literature; VFD French drama, and so on.

Book arts (X).

Divided into Book production, Book distribution, Book storage, and Book description. The first three are arranged in the order in which they follow one another in the history of a book.

X	Book arts in general.
	Book production.
X1	Authorship, including rhetoric and indexing.
X2	Writing, including short-hand and materials for writing.
X3	Paleography.
X4, X5	Catalogues of manuscripts arranged by languages
X6	Illumination and other book ornaments.
X7	Printing (for literary purposes, excluding, therefore, photographic, telegraphic, and dry-goods printing): the art.
X8,X9	Printing: the history, arranged by countries.
XA	Incunabula: catalogues and history.
XB	Incunabula: the books themselves.
XC	Binding and book-preservation.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

Book distribution.

XD Publishing, bookselling.

XE, XF Catalogues of publishers, booksellers, and auctioneers (arranged by countries).

Book-buying and book storage.

XG Book-buying, book-collecting, bibliomania.

XH, XI Private libraries: history and catalogues (including catalogues of those sold, and catalogues of private collections which have been incorporated in public libraries, but are catalogued by themselves).

XJ Public libraries: general works and administration.

XK, XL Management, reports, and history of particular public libraries, arranged geographically.

XM, XN Catalogues, arranged geographically.

Book description.

XP Bibliography in general.

XQ Remarkable books (condemned, imaginary, lost, privately printed, rare, vellum printed, etc.).

XR, XS Anonymous and pseudonymous books, arranged by countries.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

XT, XU Bibliography, arranged by countries.

XV, XW Literary history, arranged by countries.

XX Subject bibliography, arranged in the order of subjects.

XY, XZ Selection of reading, arranged by countries.

National bibliography (XT and XU).

Arranged exactly like the following class, mutatis mutandis.

Literary history (XV and XW).

Literary history is divided by countries. Under each country there may be the sections:-

.5 Dictionaries.

.7 Periodicals.

.8 Societies.

.9 Collections of three or more authors.

The general history follows; then comes, as subdivision 1, history of, and criticism upon, single authors, as---

XVE1.M6 a criticism on Milton;

next, the history of special forms of the literature, corresponding to the list of the forms given on pp. 47, 48, as---

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

(VEP being English poetry)

XVEP history of English poetry;

next, the history of special periods, in the following order (for England)--

XVER To Elizabeth.

XVES Elizabeth.

XVET Stuarts.

XVEU Anne and the Georges.

XVEV Victoria.

XVEW The future.

Next, the history of classes of writers (subdivision X), and, finally, the literary history of particular places (subdivision Z), as---

XVEZM3 Literary history of Manchester.

CAUTIONS.

Lest any one should be misled by observing that the initials of some class names have been selected as the marks for those classes[1] into thinking that the whole notation has

[1]In the main classes: C Commerce, M Medicine, S Sports, T Theatre and Music, W Western literature; and in the geographical list: E England, F France, G Germany, H Holland, I Italy; also (C being Scandinavia), CS Sweden, and (D being Great Britain), DS Scotland, DW Wales, and (R being Southern Europe), RS Mediterranean Sea. These are enough to afford considerable help to the memory, the more especially as E, F, G, and I, stand for the countries having the fullest literature.

been made mnemonic in this way, it is necessary to say that this can be done only to a limited extent, because (1) there are not enough letters for all the classes, and figures have to be used in nine cases; (2) several class names begin with the same initial (unless one adopts unusual names); and (3, and most important), the classes are intended to succeed one another according to some natural relationship; if they are all marked by the initials of their names this order would be greatly distorted to conform to the entirely different order of the alphabet. No attempt, therefore, has been made to construct a notation by initials, and what has been done in this direction must be considered an accessory and somewhat accidental advantage of the scheme, and not its main characteristic.

Readers must also remember that they will by no means find all that the library contains about a subject on the shelves assigned to that particular subject, because:

1. A special topic may be treated in more general works, as the reign of a king in the histories of his kingdom, the description of a city in a book of travels through the whole country in which it is situated, an account of a plant in general works on Botany or on Natural History. In this case

as such general works belong to the same class or even the same division, the information required would be found in the immediate neighborhood.

2. One may have to go farther to consult encyclopaedias and other books of reference.

3. A treatise on the topic in question may form part of an author's collected works, or be one of a volume of essays published by him, and, therefore, be put in the class Literature.

4. An important book may be bound with one on some other subject, and, therefore, necessarily be placed in some other part of the library, or it may be bound in a collection of miscellaneous pamphlets, with the same result.

It may also be necessary to point out that, as books often treat of more than one subject, and as books treating of different subjects are sometimes bound together, but can be put in only one place, and, moreover, as different persons will not always agree what is the best place for certain doubtful books, and as, finally, there may be a difference of opinion, or a lapse of memory in regard to the name of the author,-to say nothing of the difficulties of anonymous and pseudonymous books,-it must sometimes happen that the inquirer will not find a book where he thinks it ought to be. The catalogue, therefore, will be the only sure guide to the place of the books,

sure, that is, in all cases.

No one is obliged to remember any of these marks, or to understand what they mean; no one, not even an attendant, is expected to remember them all. The mark of a book can always be ascertained from the catalogue; the place of its class in the building is given in the local list; the particular part of the alcove is indicated by the shelf-guides. To find the book, therefore, it is only necessary (1) to consult the catalogue and the local list; (2) to know the succession of figures and the order of the alphabet; and (3) to remember that in the combination of letters and figures used here, the figures always come before the letters (92 before A1, B8 before BB, 59 before 5A)[1].

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[1] Advantage has been taken of this property under several classes to separate from the other works certain groups of books written in a particular form (as Dictionaries, Guide-books, Periodicals, Publications of societies, and Collections) by placing a figure immediately after the size-mark, using a different figure for each group:-

5 Dictionaries.
6 Handbooks, Compends, Guide-books.
7 Periodicals.
8 Society publications.
9 Collections.

All books in which a figure comes immediately after the size-mark, must, of course, precede those in which a letter follows the size-mark, e.g.:-

VE·8P Percy Society's publications.
VE·9Y Young's Old English prose writers (a collection).
VE·AD Addison's works.
VE·B1 Bacon's works.
VE·D5 Dryden's works.
H8·5W Watt's Dictionary of Chemistry.
H8·7C Chemical news (a weekly).
H8·8C4 Chemical Society's publications.
H8·G5 Gmelin's Chemistry.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

For example: Martin's Histoire de France is found from the catalogue to be marked 8F-M36. From the local index it appears that 8F is at present in Room 34, Alcove I. The dash after 8F warns us to look for a green guide, which is easily found, bearing the inscription, "Here begins section 8F History of France." Running the eye along the backs of the neighboring volumes one sees the author-marks AD1, B84, C35, C88, D24, and so on till M36 is reached. After a little practice one would not take the trouble to look through the section in this way, but would look at once at the middle of the section, knowing that M must be near the middle of any series of alphabetically arranged books.

If we had wanted Voltaire's Louis XIV., we should have found it marked 8FD V38. The local list shows the class to be in the same alcove; its red guide (which we look for on account of the ') appears some distance beyond the class 8F; and V88 is, of course, near the end of the section 8FD.

Those who habitually use any class will soon get familiar with its mark and its main divisions, as they used to do with the alcove number, and more readily than they learned the old meaningless alcove and shelf numbers, both because of the use of initials and because of the symmetry in different parts of the classification, which is produced by the use of the

geographical list[1]. In those parts of the library which people do not use enough to become familiar with, they may still find their way about, as before, by asking the attendants.

5. It also frequently occurs that a large part of one class deserves almost equally well to be put in another. Biography, for instance, is largely illustrated by works which must be put in Literature under the division Letters. On the other hand, the latter section needs to be supplemented by the class Biography, because many letters are printed with biographies, as "Life and letters," "Memoirs and correspondence," and the like, so that neither class is complete in itself. And yet there must be the separate division Letters, because epistles are by no means exclusively biographical. Again, the History and the Politics of a country are very much illustrated by its oratory; yet it would not do to put all speeches under History. It will be seen, therefore, that the Classification must limit its purpose to the satisfaction of obvious questions; for what might be called investigations of the

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[1]For instance it would not be easy to commit the list of countries to memory; but when in subject after subject a man finds books about England succeeded by books about France, and those by books about Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Italy, always in the same order, he will in time come to regard that as the only possible sequence, and find his book among them without thinking.

second order, some thought and ingenuity is needed on the part of the inquirer, and assistance must often be obtained from the catalogue. I propose, when the work is farther advanced, to prepare an index of subjects with notes giving hints similar to the remarks above on Letters and Orations.

Finally, it should be understood, that the purpose of the arrangement on the shelves is not to enable one to find a particular book, but to enable him to find the books on a particular subject or of a particular literary form. It does, indeed, answer the former purpose to a limited extent. Thus, it is easy to find in an instant, without recourse to the Catalogue, Tennyson's poems, or Shakespeare's plays, or Thackeray's novels, or Hume's England, or Agassiz's Zoology, Gray's Botany, Huxley's Biology, Tyndall on Light, Young on the Sun. But this is not the main object. Therefore, the sorting out of books in classes is determined in general less by their titles than by their contents. Thus, Chaucer's "Works," which are entirely poetical, are put in English poetry; Middleton's "Works," which are entirely dramatic, are put in English drama; and Milton's "Works," which contain both ~~xxxxxx~~ prose and poetry, are put in the more comprehensive class, English literature; Sir Humphrey Davy's "Works" will be in Science, and Sir Joshua Reynolds' "Works" in Art.

BOSTON ATHENAEUM. NEW SYSTEM OF MARKING BOOKS.

ORIGINS.

The classification and notation which have been described are a patchwork of devices taken from many different sources, put together with additions and improvements.

The plan of marking by subjects, instead of by shelves,- the "relative" or "movable" location,--has been in use in various libraries for a long time. In the West it is almost universal; in the East it is slowly extending.

The use of a mixture of figures and letters in numeration, allowing 35 classes to be numbered with one character each, and 1225 with two characters, instead of the 10 classes with one, and 100 classes with two, which is all that figures used by themselves permit, is a suggestion of Mr Melvil Dui's. (See Library journal, 4: 70-71.)

Alphabetical arrangement of a whole library in one alphabet, and alphabetical arrangement of the two special subjects, Fiction and Biography, have long been in practice; but M. J. Schwartz, of the Apprentices' Library of New York, was the first, so far as I know, to arrange alphabetically all of the sections of a minutely subdivided library. He certainly was the first to maintain this order by the use of a table in which the names were represented by numbers. (See Library

Journal, 3: ~~xxx~~ 6-10.) His table, however, was made on an entirely different principle from mine, the integral numbers from 1 to 99 being assigned to combinations of letters from Aaa to Zyz. The idea of using a table of decimal fractions, so as to be able to make intercalations ad infinitum, is my own. Prefixing to these fractions the initial of the author is an idea borrowed from Mr. J: Edmands, of the Mercantile Library of Philadelphia, who has made an author table on a principle differing from both Mr. Schwartz's and mine, but, like Mr. Schwartz's, not designed for intercalation.

As to "parallel libraries" the name only is new. The plan is merely an extension and perfection of the practice which has always obtained at this library, and doubtless at many others, of keeping the reference books which are in the Reading Room and the pamphlets in the Pamphlet Room in the xx same general order as the classes in the library. The correspondence now proposed is simply more minute and exact.

The method of noting the sizes, of distinguishing the form-classes (Dictionaries, Periodicals, etc.), and of noting the title, the geographical list with its correspondences, many of the details of the classification, and of course its whole arrangement, are original with and peculiar to the present scheme.

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